

## Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 PC-10 SSC-01 HEW-08 HUD-02

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3646

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 4550

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINR, BL

SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC NOTES ON LATEST CABINET APPOINTMENTS

REF: LA PAZ 4457

1. ON JULY 11, PRESIDENT BANZER COMPLETED HIS CABINET BY APPOINTING COL JOSE PATINO AYOROA MINISTER OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND LT COL JORGE TORRES NAVARRO MINISTER OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

2. COL PATINO WAS BORN IN 1922, HE IS A MILITARY AND CIVILIAN ENGINEER WHO HAS SPENT ABOUT HALF OF HIS WORKING LIFE IN CIVILIAN PURSUITS SUCH AS ENGINEER FOR PETRO-CHEMICAL FIRMS, OWNER OF HIS OWN CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS, AND GOVERNMENT SERVICE. HE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE BOLIVIAN STATE OIL COMPANY FROM 1966 TO 1968 AND MINISTER OF MINING AND PETROLEUM FROM 1968 TO 1969. WHEN TORRES BECAME PRESIDENT, PATINO RETURNED TO THE ARMY AND CONSPIRED FROM THE RANKS. AFTER BANZER'S SUCCESSFUL COUP, PATINO WAS APPOINTED CHIEF OF ARMY ENGINEERING, BUT HE SOON BEGAN TO CONSPIRE AGAINST THE NEW PRESIDENT, CRITICIZING THE ALLEGED CORRUPTION AND INCOMPETENCE OF THE BANZER REGIME. HE WAS ALSO HIGHLY CRITICAL OF MNR PARTICIPATION IN THE BANZER REGIME. AS A RESULT HE WAS SENT TO WASHINGTON IN MAY 1973 AS BOLIVIAN REPRESENTATIVE TO THE INTER-AMERICAN DEFENSE BOARD. IN EARLY

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1974 HE CLAIMED TO BE IN CONTACT WITH SUCH YOUNG MILITARY

CONSPIRATORS AS GARY PRADO, HUMBERTO CAYOJA AND MARI VARGAS. COL PATINO BRINGS TECHNICAL COMPETENCE TO HIS JOB, AN INDEPENDENT NATIONALISTIC BUT CONSERVATIVE OUTLOOK TO THE CABINET, AND GREAT PERSONAL POLITICAL AMBITION TO THE BOLIVIAN POLITICAL SCENE.

3. LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT LT COL TORRES. HE IS A DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH MOST RECENTLY DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND SANITATION IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. PRESUMABLY HIS CONCENTRATION IN HIS FIELD HAS KEPT HIM FROM THE NOTICE OF THE EMBASSY. STEDMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** CABINET, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
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**Draft Date:** 12 JUL 1974  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** martinml  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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